

EKKLESIA TO THE NATIONS

23 – 24 July 2022 Holy Communion

A Warm Welcome to our Church Service. We look forward to having you worship God with us again.

Bishop Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Archdeacon Ven Daniel Wee

Acting Vicar
Revd Canon Barry Leong

Clergy Revd Tang Wai Lung

Deaconess
Ds Lena Lim

Pastoral
Pas Loon Fu-Man
Pas Florence Hou
Pas Yeo Yun Jing
Pas Shirleen Yap

Administration
Susan Ling
Doris Lee
Patrick Lee

Worship Service on Saturday

English Service 4.30 pm at Sanctuary

Worship Services on Sunday

English Service
9.00 am at Sanctuary
Cantonese Service
9.00 am at Patmos Hall
Mandarin Service
11.15 am at Sanctuary
Hokkien Service
11.15 am at Patmos Hall

Speaker : Revd Canon Barry Leong

Sermon Title: The Glory of God in the

unity and growth of the

Church

Text : Ephesians 4:1-16;

Luke 11:1-13

COLLECT

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission and Purpose: As we see the gracious salvation plan in the missional heart of God, may we be a missional church of Spirit-filled committed disciples of Jesus Christ, always ready to take the gospel to the nations.

Intercession

Singapore Anglican Indian Work Sunday (23 & 24 July)

As we give thanks and focus on the work among the Indian community living in Singapore on this Diocesan Indian Work Sunday, please would you stand along with the Churches of the Singapore Anglican Indian Board to pray for the following:

- 1. Growth in spiritual maturity and in numbers
- 2. Discipleship to take place in all aspects of Church life
- 3. The Younger Generation to seek God sincerely and serve God fervently

YA-Youth-KFC Event: Neon Laser Tag on 30 July (Saturday)

- 1. Pray that it will be a meaningful time of bonding for the young people in our community, that they will find their sense of belonging in the family of Christ.
- 2. Pray that through this social event, there will be opportunities to edify and build up one another.
- Pray that the friends and newcomers will experience the welcome of the Lord through His people and ultimately be receptive to hearing the Gospel.

Gospel Sunday Service on 31 July

- 1. Pray for God's anointing upon our Speaker, Pastor Kenny Chee, as he prepares and delivers the message on 31 July.
- 2. Pray for a mighty move of the Holy Spirit to minister healing and restoration to all who come.

Gospel Sunday

The 5th Sunday Service of the month has been designated as 'Gospel Sunday'. It is a combined Evangelistic Service for both Saturday and Sunday Services and thereby no Saturday Service on that weekend. Pastor Kenny Chee has been invited to speak on 31 July 2022. Do seize the opportunity to invite others whom we know to hear the Good News.

Church Prayer Meeting

The church prayer meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on Friday, 29 July 2022, 7.45pm to 9.15pm. Let's come together as one body to intercede for individuals, families, various ministries in the church, and for Singapore and other nations. Pas Shirleen Yap will lead us in the prayer, the praise team is DR30 homecell. Staff onduty is Pas Florence & Doris. To facilitate the gate closure and security, the school main gate will be **locked at 8.15pm**, thereafter you may park at Blk 4 Farrer Road and enter via Chapel Gate E.

Neon Laser Tag Bonding

Calling everyone aged 11 to 35! Come, join us for a time of fun with neon laser tag and then a time of fellowship over lunch on 30 July 2022, from 12pm - 4pm. Cost per person is \$10 and there are limited vacancies. Hurry! Sign up now at http://gg.gg/neonlasertag. For more information, please refer to the attached flyer or contact Shirleen at 9101 0531.

Combined Confirmation Service

There will be a combined Confirmation service on Sunday, 21 August 2022 at 10.00am, presided by Bp Kuan Kim Seng. A buffet lunch will be served after the service. '1 John' Service will not be held on Saturday, 20 August 2022. Rehearsal for the confirmation candidates will be held on Sunday, 14 August 2022 at 1.15pm in the sanctuary. Do approach Pas Fu-Man for any enquiries.

Diocesan Digest (July 2022)

The latest issue of the Diocesan Digest is out! Find out the latest news and developments within the diocese. Download your copy at anglican.org.sg/diocesan-digest/.

National Day Thanksgiving Service 2022

The National Council of Churches Singapore will join Singaporeans to celebrate our nation's 57th National Day by holding the National Day Thanksgiving Service (NDTS). We invite you to join other Christians in this nation at this meaningful occasion of worship, prayer and thanksgiving where we seek the Lord together for Singapore.

You need not register to attend the NDTS.

Date: Thursday 18 August 2022, 7:45pm to 8:45pm

Venue: St Andrew's Cathedral, New Sanctuary

Speaker: Bishop Dr Gordon Wong

Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore &

Vice-President of the National Council of Churches of Singapore

Message: "Peaceful Peacemakers" based on James 3:13–18

DUTY ROSTER	Saturday 23 July 2022	Sunday 24 July 2022	Next Saturday 30 July 2022	Next Sunday 31 July 2022	You may return tithes to the Lo freewill offering the following w
Worship Officiant	Pas Richard Ting	Pas Yeo Yun Jing		Kenneth Sng	(A) By cash o using the env
Celebrant	Revd Tang Wai Lung			-	
Holy Communion Assistant	Revd Canon Barry, Pas Richard & Elly Chiu	Revd Canon Barry, Pas Yun Jing & Florence Ho		-	(B) Internet B Transfer Account Nam St John's Cha
Praise Team	David's legacy		Service on	Ethan	DBS Account
Preacher	Revd Canon Barry Leong			Pastor Kenny Chee	008 002 5860
Scripture Text	Ephesians 4:1-16; Luke 11:1-13			-	Remarks: (1) TitheXXX,
Sermon Title	The Glory of God in the unity and growth of the Church			Open Topic	(2) MissionXX (3) NeedyXXX (4) BuildingXX
Scripture Reader	Pas Florence	Esther Cheng	31 July 2022 at 9.00am	Esther Ling	(where XXX is
Ushering Team	Claypots	CA338/NON		FH50K/JP14	number)
Floral	Luanna Yau			Janet Kua	(C) <u>PayNow u</u>
Treasury Witness	Audrey & Angela	Boon Sing & Eileen Mok		Tan Pei Ching & Ding Cho Ling	St John's Cha UEN: T08CC
Staff On Duty	Doris & Ji Yin	Pas Florene & Pas Shirleen		All English Staff Team	Remarks: (sa above)

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Upcoming Events

Confirmation Class on Sundays, 24 & 31 July & 7 & 14 August 2022 Gospel Sunday on 31 July 2022 National Day Thanksgiving Service on 18 August 2022 Confirmation Service on Sunday, 21 August 2022

Church Ministries: Home Cell, Kids-for-Christ, Tekna Youth, Young Adults, Choir, Marriage & Family Life, Pastoral Care and Visitation, Men's Fellowship, Sisters' Fellowship, Seniors Ministry

Outreach: SMSS Chaplaincy, The Boys' Brigade & The Girls' Brigade, Befrienders Club

> If you wish to know more about the ministries and outreach, please email to admin@patmos.org.sg

Address: St John's Chapel

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240 : 6468 8425

Email (General Enquiries): admin@patmos.org.sg Website: www.sjcp.org.sg

The Glory of God in the unity and growth of the Church Ephesians 4:1-16

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ..." Ephesians 4:1

Chapter 4 begins the second part of Ephesians, which focuses on the application of the doctrines taught in the first half. Notice it begins with the word, "therefore". This means "based on everything we have just read." The doctrines taught in the first three chapters should directly impact how we live.

Doctrine is useful. Some people do not like to look at doctrine. They think it is boring and unimportant. For example, the bible teaches us to love one another more. But why should we love one another? Why should we have this unity in the church? Paul told us many specific reasons why we should love those who are different than us in the first three chapters. **DOCTRINE** is the WHY and APPLICATION is the HOW. If we do not know why we do something, eventually we may stop doing it. The facts in the Bible form the foundation so we should dedicate ourselves to understanding them.

On the other hand, some believers mostly focus on the doctrine and skip the application. Just understand the Bible. But knowledge is not our end goal. If it does not change our life, it is not helpful, but will only puff us up. So Paul gives us a good example here, three chapters of Doctrine and three chapters of Application.

The key application is that we are to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" - Ephesians 4:1. We see all that God has done for us (Redemption). We see the great position we have in Christ (Reconciliation). We have seen His love for us, His plans for

us and His blessings for us. God has adopted us and forgiven us. Now we have a responsibility to live worthily, not perfectly, but worthily. Thank God that He has provided the resources (Graces and Gifts) for us to live in a worthy manner. We need to make use of them, live new lives, and not go back to our former way of life.

We learnt in Ephesians 2 and 3 the unity believers have regardless of their race. Even previous enemies can be brothers and sisters in God's family. Maybe there are some old grudges - "Sure, I can have unity with Peter and Chong, but Wong is just too difficult." No, it is not a pick and choose type deal. We are to have unity with all believers in the Church, not just those like us or with the same views as us . And this is hard work. So how do we live this out?

Maintaining unity does not happen automatically. Christians are also sinners. Put hundreds of sinners of all ages and backgrounds together. What do we get? Do we think they will by nature have peace and be unified based on the teaching in Ephesians 2, 3 and 4:4-6? No, by nature, they will have a hundred different opinions and argue on and on. **Keeping unity requires DILIGENCE.** We have to work at it. We have to make an effort to go out of our way to show kindness to the "weird" believers as Ephesians 4:2-3 encourages us "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Keeping unity not only requires diligence, it also depends on GRACE and GIFTS. The goal of unity is to grow up together in Christ. That is unity leads to maturity, and maturity fosters greater unity. And to facilitate this, God has given gifts to the Church. Ephesians 4:7 stresses the way in which Christ personally and intentionally gives gifts to the Church. Christ is building His body, and He knows exactly how He wants it shaped. Therefore, He uniquely redeems and repurposes

people in the Church. Even more, we know Christ is working to shape each member of His church, and He is shaping us through one another. The point of Ephesians 4:1-16 is to stress how the members of the Body, the Church, are given to build one another up. That is to say, in Church, we find gifted **APEST people** (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Shepherd-Teachers) committed to serving one another. Through these gifts, God leads the Church to grow in biblical maturity, which in turn facilitates greater unity.

Church unity will only come through seasons of disunity and difficulty. In other words, because **unity is dependent on maturity**, unity and maturity are a process that takes time. Unity is not a peace that falls on the Church. **It is the product of the Church growing up in LOVE** (Ephesians 4:15-16). Does that kind of unity sound easy? Construction is not easy. Forming new habits is hard. And forming new life is even more so. In the process of Church growth, unity is not a given. It is the result of Spirit-empowered labour. It is something, therefore, God must do in His church over time, and this process of unity and maturity is often filled with pain.

When it is all said and done, **Gospel-centered**, **humble-hearted unity glorifies God**. It glorifies God because it can only come through the cross of Christ - the pinnacle of His praise. And it glorifies God because it demands members of the Body to die to self too and to live a life empowered by the Spirit. In this way, Christ gets the glory for what He did once and for all on the cross. And the Spirit of Christ gets the glory as He completes the work of Christ in the life of His church. **And all this is seen in the Church because it is the locus where the glory of God is witnessed today**.

Even more, when the Church is unified in Gospel Truth and Humble Love, it will display to unbelievers what the Gospel does. In truth,

the Gospel is a message of grace, news that is heard, not seen. But when that message is believed by a community of faith, and that community covenants to love one another, it makes the audible, visible - and the power, wisdom, and goodness of God is seen.

For that reason, pursuing Church unity is worth the effort, because it results in seeing Christ glorified on earth. And when that happens, it strengthens believers and draws unbelievers to God's power, love, and wisdom. Therefore, let us continue to understand what Church unity is and is not and to seek it with the power of God's Spirit.

Talk it over

- 1. What would you say to someone who is trying to walk alone as a Christian? What does this passage teach us about the Christian life, the Church, and biblical maturity?
- 2. What does this passage teach us about biblical unity? What are common ways we misunderstand / misapply teaching about unity? What is one step you can take to grow in your relationship with St John's Chapel?
- 3. From verse 7 "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift", we see that God's design involves every believer serving the Lord. Are you doing the works of service? Are you using your gifts in St John's Chapel? If not, you need to fix the situation. This Sunday, go up and ask what you can do to help or volunteer for a specific ministry. (If they say there is no need, tell them what you learnt in Ephesians and ask them to really think about what you can do. Leaders of a church may say "NO" the first time out of politeness, so do not stop there. Whatever they give you to do, do with all your heart. Do not consider it is below you. Eventually, as you serve, your special gifting will become apparent.)



COME, JOIN US FOR A COMBINED
MINISTRY BONDING EVENT! WE WILL
ENJOY A TIME OF FUN OVER A GAME OF
LASER TAG FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP
OVER LUNCH!

DATE: 30 JULY 2022 (SAT)

TIME: 12PM - 4PM

VENUE: FUN EMPIRE HQ

(5B GUILLEMARD RD, LEVEL 3 WING FONG BUILDING, SINGAPORE 399685)

COST: \$10 PER PAX (EXCLUDES LUNCH)



